

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Health Regulation Committee

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BILL: SB 1734

INTRODUCER: Senator Oelrich

SUBJECT: Emergency Medical Services Personnel/Training/HIV

DATE: April 2, 2010

REVISED: 04/07/10

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Harper	Wilson	HR	<b>Favorable</b>
2.		HE	
3.		HA	
4.			
5.			
6.			

**I. Summary:**

This bill removes the requirement for emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics, and 911 emergency dispatchers who are certified under chapter 401, F.S., to complete a course approved by the Department of Health (DOH) regarding the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) as a condition of licensure and biennial relicensure. The bill also removes the requirement for an institution seeking approval of a program for the education of EMTs and paramedics to show documentation of HIV/AIDS training in its curriculum.

This bill substantially amends sections 381.0034 and 401.2701 of the Florida Statutes.

**II. Present Situation:**

**HIV/AIDS**

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a physical disorder that results in the loss of immunity in affected persons. It is caused by a retrovirus known as the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). The HIV infection and AIDS remain leading causes of illness and death in the United States. Since the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s, it is estimated that over 1 million persons in the United States have been diagnosed with AIDS.<sup>1</sup> According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the annual number of AIDS cases and deaths declined substantially after 1994, but stabilized during the period

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<sup>1</sup>HIV/AIDS in the United States. Revised August 2009. CDC. Available at:  
<<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/PDF/us.pdf>> (Last visited April 1, 2010).

1999-2004.<sup>2</sup> The number of HIV/AIDS cases among racial/ethnic minority populations and persons exposed to HIV through heterosexual contact has increased since 1994.<sup>3</sup>

Florida ranks third among the states in the cumulative number of reported AIDS cases, with 118,560 cases reported through January 2010.<sup>4</sup> A total of 5,608 HIV cases and 4,429 AIDS cases were reported in Florida in 2009.<sup>5</sup>

Florida has comprehensive HIV testing and partner notification laws. Additionally Florida law requires certain health care practitioners who provide prenatal services to offer HIV testing along with the testing for other sexually transmissible diseases to pregnant women.

### **Emergency Medical Technicians/Paramedics, Standards and Certification**

“Emergency Medical Technician” is defined under s. 401.23, F.S., to mean a person who is certified by the DOH to perform basic life support, which is the treatment of medical emergencies through the use of techniques described in the Emergency Medical Technician Basic Training Course Curriculum of the U.S. Department of Transportation. “Paramedic” means a person who is certified by the DOH to perform basic *and* advanced life support.

The DOH must establish, by rule, educational and training criteria and examinations for the certification and recertification of EMTs and paramedics.<sup>6</sup> An applicant for certification or recertification as an EMT or paramedic must have completed an appropriate training course as follows:

- For an EMT, an emergency medical technician training course equivalent to the most recent emergency medical technician basic training course of the U.S. Department of Transportation as approved by the DOH.
- For a paramedic, a paramedic training program equivalent to the most recent paramedic course of the U.S. Department of Transportation as approved by the DOH.

The DOH must also establish by rule, a procedure for biennial renewal certification of EMTs and paramedics. Such rules for EMTs must require a U.S. Department of Transportation refresher training program of at least 30 hours as approved by the DOH every 2 years. Rules for paramedics must require candidates for renewal to have taken at least 30 hours of continuing education units during the 2-year period.

### **911 Emergency Dispatchers<sup>7</sup>**

“911 emergency Dispatcher” means a person employed by a state agency or local government as a public safety dispatcher or 911 operator whose duties include answering 911 calls and

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<sup>2</sup> CDC Revised Recommendations for HIV Testing of Adults, Adolescents, and Pregnant Women in Health Care Settings. *MMWR (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report)* September 22, 2006; 55(RR 14):1-17. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5514a1.htm> (Last visited on April 1, 2010).

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> The Florida Division of Disease Control Surveillance Report (Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, STD and TB). February 2010, No. 303. Available at: [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/aids/trends/msr/2010/MSR0210.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/aids/trends/msr/2010/MSR0210.pdf) (Last visited on April 1, 2010).

<sup>5</sup> The Florida Division of Disease Control Surveillance Report (Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, STD and TB). February 2010, No. 303. Available at: [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/aids/trends/msr/2010/MSR0210.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/aids/trends/msr/2010/MSR0210.pdf) (Last visited on April 1, 2010).

<sup>6</sup> s. 401.27, F.S.

<sup>7</sup> s. 401.465, F.S.

dispatching law enforcement officers, fire rescue services, emergency medical services, and other public safety services to the scene of an emergency. The DOH is to establish, by rule, educational and training criteria for the certification and recertification of 911 emergency dispatchers. Requirements include completion of an appropriate 911 emergency dispatcher training program that is equivalent to the most recently approved emergency dispatcher course of the Florida Department of Education.

**Requirement for Instruction on HIV/AIDS**

Under s. 381.0034(3), F.S., the DOH must require applicants for initial licensure or certification as EMTs, paramedics, 911 emergency dispatchers, midwives, radiologic technologists, or clinical laboratory personnel to complete an educational course on HIV and AIDS. These professions must complete a department-approved course on HIV/AIDS at the time of initial licensure or certification, or do so within 6 months of licensure or certification upon an affidavit showing good cause.

The course must cover modes of transmission, infection control procedures, clinical management, and prevention of HIV/AIDS. The course must also include information on current Florida law on AIDS and its impact on testing, confidentiality of test results, treatment of patients, and any protocols and procedures applicable to HIV counseling and testing, reporting, the offering of HIV testing to pregnant women, and partner notification. Failure to comply with the educational requirement is grounds for disciplinary action.

Section 381.0034(1), F.S., also provides that the DOH must require, as a condition of biennial relicensure, persons certified or licensed as EMTs, paramedics, 911 emergency dispatchers, midwives, radiologic technologists, and clinical laboratory personnel to complete an educational course approved by the DOH on HIV/AIDS. Each licensee or certificate-holder is to submit confirmation of having completed the course when submitting fees or an application for each biennial renewal.

**Emergency Medical Services Training Programs<sup>8</sup>**

Any private or public institution in Florida desiring to conduct an approved program for the education of EMTs and paramedics must submit a completed application, which must include documentation verifying that the curriculum:

- Meets the course guides and instructor's lesson plans in the most recent Emergency Medical Technician-Basic National Standard Curricula for emergency medical technician programs and Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic National Standard Curricula for paramedic programs;
- Includes 2 hours of instruction on the trauma scorecard methodologies for assessment of adult trauma patients and pediatric trauma patients as specified by the DOH by rule; and
- Includes 4 hours of instruction on HIV/AIDS training consistent with the requirements of chapter 381, F.S.

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<sup>8</sup> s. 401.2701, F.S.

### **Emergency Medical Technician National Standard Curriculum<sup>9</sup>**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has assumed responsibility for the development of training courses that are responsive to the standards established by the Highway Safety Act of 1966 (amended). Since these courses are designed to provide national guidelines for training, it is NHTSA's intention that they be of the highest quality and be maintained in a current and up-to-date status from the point of view of both technical content and instructional strategy.

In 1994, the NHTSA completed an extensive revision of the national standard Emergency Medical Technician-Basic Curriculum.<sup>10</sup> The EMT-Basic National Standard Curriculum is a core curriculum of minimum required information, to be presented within a 110-hour training program, intended to prepare a medically competent EMT-Basic to operate in the field. The 110-hour time constraint of the program, as recommended by the national emergency medical services community during the 1990 NHTSA *Consensus Workshop on Emergency Medical Services Training Programs*, necessitates the need for enrichment and continuing education in order to bring a student to full competency.<sup>11</sup>

The 1994 EMT-Basic: National Standard Curriculum Instructor's Course Guide<sup>12</sup> specifically mentions that: "It is important to understand that this curriculum does not provide students with extensive knowledge in hazardous materials, blood-borne pathogens, emergency vehicle operations or rescue practices in unusual environments. These areas are not core elements of education and practice as identified in the *National EMS Education and Practice Blueprint*. Identified areas of competency not specifically designed within the EMT-Basic: National Standard Curriculum should be taught in conjunction with this program as a local or state option."

The EMT-Paramedic: National Standard Curriculum represents the minimum required information to be presented within a course leading to certification as a paramedic. It is recognized that there is additional specific education that will be required of paramedics who operate in the field, i.e. ambulance driving, heavy and light rescue, basic extrication, special needs, and so on. It is also recognized that this information might differ from locality to locality, and that each training program or system should identify and provide special instruction for these training requirements.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>9</sup> National Standard Curricula available at:

<[http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/template.MAXIMIZE/menuitem.2a0771e91315babbbf30811060008a0c/?javax.portlet.tpst=4670b93a0b088a006bc1d6b760008a0c\\_ws\\_MX&javax.portlet.prp\\_4670b93a0b088a006bc1d6b760008a0c\\_viewID=detail\\_view&itemID=1822abcc80c81010VgnVCM1000002c567798RCRD&overrideViewName=Article](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/template.MAXIMIZE/menuitem.2a0771e91315babbbf30811060008a0c/?javax.portlet.tpst=4670b93a0b088a006bc1d6b760008a0c_ws_MX&javax.portlet.prp_4670b93a0b088a006bc1d6b760008a0c_viewID=detail_view&itemID=1822abcc80c81010VgnVCM1000002c567798RCRD&overrideViewName=Article)>

(Last visited on April 2, 2010).

<sup>10</sup> See NHTSA Emergency Medical Technician: Basic Refresher Curriculum, Instructor Course Guide.

Available at: <<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/ems/pub/basicref.pdf>> (Last visited on April 2, 2010).

<sup>11</sup> See NHTSA EMT-Basic: National Standard Curriculum, Instructor's Course Guide. Available at:

<<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/ems/pub/emtbnsr.pdf>> (Last visited on April 2, 2010).

<sup>12</sup> Available at: <<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/ems/pub/emtbnsr.pdf>> (Last visited on April 2, 2010).

<sup>13</sup> EMT: Paramedic National Standard Curriculum. Available at: <[http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/ems/EMT-P/disk\\_1%5B1%5D/Intro.pdf](http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/ems/EMT-P/disk_1%5B1%5D/Intro.pdf)> (Last visited on April 2, 2010).

The 1998 EMT-Paramedic: National Standard Curriculum Introduction<sup>14</sup> also specifically mentions that: “It is important to recognize that this curriculum does not provide students with extensive knowledge in hazardous materials, blood-borne pathogens, emergency vehicle operations or rescue practices in unusual environments. These areas are not core elements of education and practice as identified in the *National EMS Education and Practice Blueprint*. Identified areas of competency not specifically designed within the EMT-Paramedic: National Standard Curriculum should be taught in conjunction with this program as a local or state option.”

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

**Section 1.** Amends s. 381.0034, F.S., to remove the requirement for each person certified under chapter 401, F.S., Medical Telecommunications and Transportation, to complete an educational course about HIV and AIDS as a condition of biennial relicensure. The bill also makes technical changes.

**Section 2.** Amends s. 401.2701, F.S., to remove the provision that a private or public institution desiring to conduct emergency medical services training programs submit an application with documentation verifying that the curriculum includes 4 hours of instruction on HIV/AIDS training. The bill also makes a technical change.

**Section 3.** Provides an effective date of July 1, 2010.

### IV. Constitutional Issues:

#### A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

The provisions of this bill have no impact on municipalities and the counties under the requirements of Article VII, Section 18 of the Florida Constitution.

#### B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

The provisions of this bill have no impact on public records or open meetings issues under the requirements of Article I, Section 24(a) and (b) of the Florida Constitution.

#### C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

The provisions of this bill have no impact on the trust fund restrictions under the requirements of Article III, Subsection 19(f) of the Florida Constitution.

### V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

#### A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

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<sup>14</sup> Available at: <[http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/ems/EMT-P/disk\\_1%5B1%5D/Intro.pdf](http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/ems/EMT-P/disk_1%5B1%5D/Intro.pdf)> (Last visited on April 2, 2010).

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The DOH indicated that indeterminate costs will be incurred to meet the provisions of the bill. The bill would require the department to promulgate rules to remove the HIV/AIDS requirement in 64J-1.008 and 64J-1.009, Florida Administrative Code. The DOH also indicated that the application for the approval of an Emergency Medical Training Program, DH Form 1698, will have to be revised.

There may also be a fiscal impact on the Department of Education to revise its Public Safety Telecommunication Curriculum Framework (P090101)<sup>15</sup>, which references the DOH HIV/AIDS education requirement as specified in s. 381.0034, F.S.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

The bill title duplicates the terms “emergency medical technician” and “paramedic” on lines 5-7.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill’s introducer or the Florida Senate.

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<sup>15</sup> See Department of Education, 2009-10 Law, Public Safety & Security Career Cluster Curriculum Frameworks. Available at: <[http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/law\\_cluster\\_frame09.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/law_cluster_frame09.asp)> (Last visited on April 1, 2010).